SYA Summer 2018
Start Your Adventure

SYA
SCHOOL YEAR ABROAD

www.sya.org
Open your world to new possibilities

About SYA Summer:
SYA Summer is modeled after the highly successful School Year Abroad, which has been transforming high school students into global thinkers for over 50 years. The SYA Summer five-week experience consists of four weeks of language and culture lessons – both in and outside of the classroom, excursions and community-based activities, and a meaningful homestay with a local family. The fifth week is devoted to travel, allowing students to explore more of the country they will soon be calling their “second home.”

AP Track:
Our schools in China, France and Spain offer an AP Track for qualified students who plan to enroll in an AP Language and Culture course in the fall. While all of our classes are designed to maximize language acquisition, this fast-paced course is focused more intensely on preparing students for success both in the AP class and on the AP exam. Our instructors are veteran AP language teachers, familiar with the content and format of the exams. This is a content-based course, not a “prep course” on exam taking.

SYA Host Families:
Living with a local host family allows SYA Summer students to learn how a language comes to life in a cultural context while forging a lifelong bond with a new family.

SYA interviews, carefully selects, and maintains ongoing relationships with each host family. SYA also visits each home and provides an orientation for the families. The Program Director and Host Family Coordinator then review each student’s file to make the best possible placement. Many families have hosted students in the past, bringing to the program their invaluable experience.
• Take an active role in an intensive Mandarin Chinese language program impossible to replicate at your home school.

• Immerse yourself in the community by participating in local activities and living with a Chinese host family.

• Attend traditional brush painting, calligraphy and martial arts classes to have a more authentic experience.

• Explore ancient cultural and historical sites in Beijing and other lesser-known destinations during faculty-guided excursions.

• Travel for seven days at the end of the program to destinations such as Xi’an, the starting point of the infamous Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Warriors, and historic Gansu Province.

Turbo charge your language skills and broaden your understanding of China’s cultural heritage as well as the contemporary events which have shaped modern China. Morning classes are followed by extracurricular activities or group excursions in Beijing to see some of its greatest attractions and to experience its vibrant culture. Living with a local family — the cornerstone of SYA’s programs — will do more than provide a place for you to practice what you learned at school; it’s an opportunity to become completely immersed in the culture and establish lifelong relationships. The fifth week of the program is dedicated to providing students an experience of China beyond Beijing. In years past, destinations for the final trip have included: Xi’an, Lanzhou and Xiahe in northwest China.

“SYA China Summer has elevated my confidence in speaking Chinese language. I have a gained a greater understanding of what it is like to live in China.”

SYA Summer China ‘16 student
Immerse yourself in Rennes to deepen your understanding of French language and culture, particularly France’s regional diversity. Classes are held in the morning and afternoons are dedicated to activities, visits and excursions that allow you to discover this fascinating region of Brittany, France. Evenings and weekends are spent in the comfort of your host family where you’ll have ample opportunity to share the highlights of your day over a delicious meal. Wrap up your stay with a five-day trip to Paris.

“My host family has played a very significant role in my life here. I bonded with them immensely and spent much of my free time with them. Not only have they helped me absorb the true French culture, but they made me feel at home and more comfortable being away from my real family for five weeks.”

SYA Summer France ’17 student
SYA Italy Summer

• Study Latin language and literature in its historical context.

• Explore Roman ruins, such as the Forum, Ostia Antica and Pompeii, and museums with famous classical collections.

• Apply your knowledge of Latin to a modern language and learn to speak some Italian.

• Explore Italy and visit historic locations from the Roman Empire.

Make your classical studies come alive this summer!

SYA Summer in Italy is now a Classics program! For more information, visit www.sya.org/summerclassics

S YA Italy offers an active, hands-on program for Latin students to strengthen and contextualize their Latin studies, while participating in the Italian culture. For four weeks you will attend classes and live with an Italian host family in Viterbo. Each week Latin class will focus on a different theme such as literature, history, government or architecture. “In class” time will be spent reading poetry, reviewing grammar and vocabulary, preparing for site visits and developing an independent project on the topic of your choice. Frequent day trips to Rome, plus other local areas of classical interest, bring your studies to life. While the academic focus of the program is Latin and the Classical World, you’ll also learn about the language and culture of Italy. Local activities, such as art and cooking classes, hiking trips, soccer matches, and visits to nearby attractions, are designed to help you experience the country and meet Italian peers. The final week of the program is spent traveling outside of Lazio, visiting Roman sites. Last summer’s destination was Campania.

Audentes Fortuna iuvat!
SPAIN

Make the leap from “learning Spanish” to experiencing Spain with all of your senses. Classes are held in the morning, and afternoons are designed to help you immerse yourself in the local language and culture. Evenings and weekends are devoted to your host family experience. You will be carefully placed in a Spanish family who will become your guide to Zaragoza and the surrounding area.

The program is located in Zaragoza, a vibrant city situated midway between Madrid and Barcelona. While there will be day trips and a brief visit to Madrid during the first four weeks, the culmination of the program will be a trip through northeastern Spain, ending in Barcelona.

“I can confidently say that this was one of the best experiences of my life. I feel like I have grown so much in my understanding of the Spanish culture, and my Spanish language skills improved immensely. I feel like I am leaving the program an infinitely more confident and curious person. I absolutely loved it!”

SYA Summer Spain ‘17 student
ADMISSIONS & ELIGIBILITY
All SYA Summer programs are open to rising 10th, 11th and 12th-grade high school students. Application for admission is considered complete when the following have been received:

- Online application and $50 application fee
- Personal essay
- Advisor Recommendation
- Language Teacher Recommendation
- Transcript (with fall semester grades)
- Recent uploaded photo

Once your completed application has been submitted with all required parts, please allow up to two weeks for a decision. Applicants will be notified via email to check their online account when a decision has been made. For more info visit www.sya.org/summerapplication. Admissions decisions begin on January 19, 2018.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
China: Students must be currently enrolled in Mandarin level 1 or above.

France & Spain: Students must be currently enrolled in French or Spanish level 2 or above.

Italy: Students must have completed at least one year of Latin.

Please note that a Skype interview with the Program Director may be requested.

DATES & TUITION
Duration: Five weeks in China, France, Italy or Spain. See country sections for program dates.

Departure/Return: SYA organizes a round-trip group flight, typically from the East Coast, to Beijing, Paris, Rome and Barcelona. There will be a chaperone on the outbound flight in June, but not on the return flight in July. Families are not required to purchase a ticket on the group flight.

Program fee: $8,300 inclusive of tuition, homestay, meals, excursions and health insurance. Not included are: round-trip airfare, personal expenses such as visa fees, travel insurance and spending money.

Please note: group flights depart the day before each program starts abroad.

FINANCIAL AID
SYA Summer has limited financial aid available for families who show a demonstrated need. The summer program financial aid deadline is January 12, 2018, and an application can be downloaded from www.sya.org/summer.
Here is what some of our parents say about us:

“SYA’s relationships in the community and the placements with host families is what stands out in my mind. Our daughter’s homestay was extraordinary. But then to complement that learning, the academic classes and the extracurriculars deepened, enhanced and supported the immersion experience. SYA is a top-notch program. The faculty and director were outstanding. I can’t say enough good things about SYA.”

Dana R., parent of SYA Summer Spain ‘17 student

“The program is impressive in its organization. We were a bit apprehensive about sending our 16-year-old daughter to Europe on her own but could not have been more pleased. Sophie learned so much and her younger sister cannot wait to go next!”

Grace P., parent of SYA Summer Italy ‘17 student

“We were so very impressed with the SYA Staff in Spain and the program that they had put together. My daughter believes these were some of the finest teachers that she has ever had. She absolutely loved the coursework and the excursions.”

Matt W., parent of SYA Summer Spain ‘17 student

For more details visit

www.sya.org/summer